REMARKS

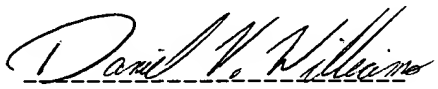
Claims 8-29 are presented for examination in this application, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/302,259 filed April 30, 1999, wherein claims 1-7 are allowed.

The foregoing amendments to the specification and Abstract conform this application to the parent application as allowed. In addition, various typographical errors coming to the attention of the undersigned attorney have also been corrected.

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and favorable examination in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees necessary to maintain the pendency of this application (except the Issue Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, replace the 1st paragraph as follows:

The present invention relates to an automatic plate making machine equipped with a photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus and photosensitive printing plate packaging means. In the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus, photosensitive printing plates packaged in the printing plate packaging means are first taken out therefrom in a condition in which light from the outside is blocked, and the photosensitive printing plates which have been taken out are conveyed to a predetermined position in an automatic plate making machine or the like by the same supplying apparatus. The photosensitive printing plate packaging means is designed such that taking out the photosensitive printing plates from the packaging means by the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus can be carried out in an optimum way inside the same supplying apparatus.

Pages 9-10, replace the bridging paragraph as follows:

In accordance with the second aspect, when the [above-descried] above-described photosensitive printing plate packaging means is attached to the printing plate accommodating portion in the printing plate supplying apparatus, the lid opening/closing means moves the opening/closing lid to an opening position or [an] a closing position in the light-shielded chamber and thus the supply opening of the printing plate packaging box can be opened/closed. Also, in accordance with the second aspect, since the opening/closing lid removably covers the box, when the supply opening is to be opened, the lid opening/closing means moves the opening/closing lid to the opening position which removes the opening/closing lid from the box, and when the supply opening is to be closed, the lid opening/closing means moves the opening/closing lid at the opening position to the closing position in which the opening/closing lid covers the box.

Page 10, replace the 2nd full paragraph as follows:

In accordance with the third aspect, when the [above-descried] above-described photosensitive printing plate packaging means is attached to the printing plate accommodating portion in the printing plate supplying apparatus, the lid opening/closing means moves the lid portion to an opening position

or [an] a closing position in the light-shielded chamber and thus the supply opening of the printing plate packaging box can be opened/closed. Also, in accordance with the third aspect, since the lid portion is swingably supported by the box, the lid opening/closing means swings the lid portion to the opening position or the closing position.

Pages 10-11, replace the bridging paragraph as follows:

A fourth aspect of the present invention is an automatic plate making machine for a photosensitive printing plate [according to claim 1], wherein the printing plate packaging means includes a box main body, which is formed in a box shape such that the bundle of photosensitive printing plates can be accommodated therein and which is provided with the supply opening through which the photosensitive printing plates are taken out, and an opening/closing lid which can be slidably attached to the box for opening/closing the supply opening.

Page 11, replace the 1st full paragraph as follows:

In accordance with the fourth aspect of the present invention, when the [above-descried] above-described photosensitive printing plate packaging means is attached to the printing plate accommodating portion in the printing plate supplying apparatus, the lid opening/closing means moves the opening/closing lid to an opening position or [an] a closing position in the light-shielded chamber and thus the supply opening of the printing plate packaging box can be opened/closed. Also, in accordance with the fourth aspect, since the opening/closing lid is slidably supported by the box, the lid opening/closing means slides the opening/closing lid to the opening position or the closing position.

Page 14, replace the 1st and 2nd paragraphs as follows:

When this pulling-out force reaches a predetermined value, the packaging means main body breaks and at least a portion of the packaged photosensitive printing plate packaged therein is made exposed. The photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus can now convey the photosensitive printing plate to the starting position of plate making of the automatic plate making machine.

Further, as the photosensitive printing plates made exposed by losing the packaging means main body is still completely shielded from light by the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus, the photosensitive printing plate can reliably avoid being subject to accidental exposure.

Accordingly, since the photosensitive printing plate is always loaded into the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus in a state in which the photosensitive printing plate is light-shielded by the packaging means main body, the loading operation [cab] can be carried out even under the bright environment. Therefore, the operational efficiency improves as compared to the conventional example in which the loading operation is effected under the dark environment, and the operator's burden is significantly reduced.

Pages 32-33, replace the bridging paragraph as follows:

The opening/closing lid 48 is formed so that the depth thereof is smaller than that of the box main body 46. When the opening/closing lid 48 covers the box main body 46, the lower end portions of the side plate portions 46B and 46C of the box main body 46 are exposed to the exterior. Therefore, when the printing plate packaging box 28 is attached to the mounting surface 30, the positioning plates 32 and 34 abut only the lower end portions of the side plate portions 46B and 46C (that is, not abutting the side plate portions 48B and 48C

located outside of the side plate portions 46B and 46C) when these positioning plates 32 and 34 position the printing plate packaging box 28 at a predetermined reference position. Accordingly, since the positioning plates 32 and 34 are prevented from contacting the opening/closing lid 48, the opening/closing lid 48 can be opened and closed without being interfered with by the positioning plates 32 and 34.

Pages 35-36, replace the bridging paragraph as follows:

The guide rail 58 extends in the direction normal to the mounting surface 30 of the printing plate supplying cassette 18. The drive portion 60 is provided with a drive motor (not shown), a drive roller 64 which is normally and reversely rotated by this drive motor, and idle rollers 66 which [sandwitch] sandwich the guide rail 58 with this drive roller 64 as shown. When the drive roller 64 of the drive portion 60 is rotated normally or reversely, the drive portion 60 moves in the direction of moving closer to or away from the printing plate packaging box 28 on the mounting surface 30. Further, an air suction pump 68 is provided in the drive portion 60.

Page 37, replace the 1st full paragraph as follows:

The drive portion 80 is provided with a drive motor (not shown), a drive roller 84 which is normally and reversely rotated by this drive motor, and idle rollers 86 which [sandwitch] sandwich the guide rail 78 with this drive roller 84 as shown. When the drive roller 84 of the drive portion 80 is rotated normally or reversely, the drive portion 80 moves in the lower end direction or the upper end direction of the guide rail 78.

Page 75, replace the 1st full paragraph as follows:

Next, the adhesive tape 418D at the long edge 414B side which is disposed at the upper portion in Fig. 17 and the adhesive tape 41 8B at the center (see Fig. [11] 14) are peeled off. The folded portion 424 is then extended upwardly so that the portion 424 juts out of the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432 as shown in Fig. 17. In this way, the folded portion 424 serves as a jutting-out portion 420, and the rest of the packaging paper 410 serves as a packaging means main body. Then, the slide door 440 is slid upwardly such that this jutting-out portion 420 is nipped between the upper edge of the slide door 440 and the cassette accommodating portion 434. The slide door 440 is locked at the completely closed position by the unillustrated lock device. In this way, the photosensitive printing plate 42 is doubly com-

pletely shielded from light by the packaging paper 410 and the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432.

Page 81, replace the 3rd full paragraph as follows:

Fig. 25 shows a packaging paper 650 which is a sixth embodiment of the present invention. Further, Fig. 26 shows this packaging paper 650 in an unfolded state. A display portion 622 is provided.

Page 85, replace the 3rd full paragraph as follows:

Fig. 29 shows a state in which a packaging paper 780 in a seventh embodiment of the present invention packages the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42. Further, Fig. 30 shows this packaging paper 780 in an unfolded state. A display portion 722 is provided.

Pages 86-87, replace the bridging paragraph as follows:

In order to package the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42 in this packaging paper 780, similarly to the packaging paper 530 in the fifth embodiment, the bundle 49 is placed onto the packaging members 782 and 784 so that the longitudinal directions of the overlapped portion 790 of the

packaging members 782 and [894] 784 correspond to the longitudinal direction of the bundle 49. Then, the packaging member 784 is folded over on the upper surface of the bundle 49, and the packaging member 782 is folded over on the upper surface of the bundle 49. Further, the folded portion of the packaging member 782 lying on the upper surface of the bundle 49 is folded over to the opposite side so that the folded portion of the packaging member 782 overlaps the packaging member 784 by a predetermined width.

Page 87, replace the 1st full paragraph as follows:

In this way, a portion of the packaging paper 782 at the distal end side forms a jutting-out portion 792 which juts out of the bundle 49. Accordingly, after the bundle is loaded into the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432 (see Fig. 17), the jutting-out portion 792 can be made jut out of the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432. The folded portions of the packaging members 782, 784 are fixed by adhesive 718H. This jutting-out portion 792 can then be pulled out. When the pulling-out force reaches a predetermined value or more, the bent portions 786 and 788 are extended and released from engagement, and the packaging member 782 can be separated from the packaging member 784.

Page 88, replace the 2nd full paragraph as follows:

Namely, in the packaging paper in the eighth embodiment, the packaging members 882 and 884 are simply overlapped and the overlapped portion 894 is formed without forming the bent portions like the bent portions 786 and 788. The layers in the overlapped portion 894 [is] are adhered to each other by an adhesive agent 896. This adhesive agent 896 effects a predetermined degree of adhesion which is strong enough to prevent packaging members [812] 882 and [814] 884 from being separated unnecessarily during the carrying process or the storage process but easily breaks when the predetermined value or more of the pulling-out force is applied to the packaging members [812] 882 and [814] 884 allowing the packaging members [812] 882 and [814] 884 to be separated.

Page 89, replace the 3rd paragraph as follows:

Further, the range which is adhered by the adhesive agent need not extend over the entire overlapped portion 816 which corresponds to the overlapped portion 416 shown in Fig. 14, and only a part of the overlapped portion may be adhered by the adhesive agent 896. For example, in the example shown in Fig. 33, only a substantially central portion of the packaging paper 810 is adhered by the adhesive agent 896. A display portion 822 is provided.

Pages 91-92, replace the bridging paragraph as follows:

Consequently, the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42 is packaged and light-shielded by the packaging paper 900. In short, the packaging paper 900 comprises a packaging paper main body 912 which packages and shields the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42 from light and the jutting-out portions 906 which are provided at this packaging paper main body 912. A display portion 922 is provided.

Page 93, replace the 3rd full paragraph as follows:

Figs. 36 and 37 show a packaging member 1020 in a tenth embodiment of the present invention. This packaging member 1020 includes an accommodation box 1022, within which the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42 is accommodated. The accommodation box 1022 is formed in a flat rectangular [parallelopiped] parallelepiped box shape which opens on the upper side so as to form an opening portion 1024. A display portion 1023 is provided.

Page 95, replace the 2nd full paragraph as follows:

When the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42 which is accommodated and light-shielded in the above-structured packaging member 1020 is loaded into the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432 the jutting-out portion 1028 can be made to jut out of the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432. The jutting-out portion 1028 is then pulled out so that a portion of the photosensitive printing plate 42 can be exposed within the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432.

Page 96, replace the 2nd paragraph as follows:

Figs. 38 and 39 show a packaging member 1140 in an eleventh embodiment of the present invention. This packaging member 1140 includes an accommodation box main body 1142 which has substantially the same structure as that of the accommodation box 1022 in the tenth embodiment. However, it is different in that the interior of the accommodation box main body 1142 is shielded by the light-shielding plate 1146 instead of the light-shielding paper 1026 in the tenth embodiment. A display portion 1043 is provided.

Page 97, replace the 2nd full paragraph as follows:

When the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42 which is accommodated and light-shielded in the above-structured packaging member 1040 is loaded into the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432, the jutting-out portion 1150 can be made to jut out of the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432. The jutting-out portion 1150 is pulled out so that a portion of the photosensitive printing plate 42 can be exposed within the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus 432.

Pages 97-98, replace the bridging paragraph as follows:

In the above descriptions, the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42 is packaged in the [forms] form of caramel packaging and pillow-type packaging (in the fourth to the ninth embodiments), and further, in the accommodation box 1022 or 1142 and the light-shielding paper 1026 or the light-shielding plate 1146 (in the tenth and the eleventh embodiments). However, it should be noted that the form of packaging is not limited to these examples. In short, it suffices as long as the bundle 49 of the photosensitive printing plates 42 is packaged and completely shielded from light properly such that unnecessary exposure of the printing plates 42, is avoided.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7 are cancelled without prejudice and/or disclaimer.

The claims are amended as follows:

8. *(Amended)* A printing plate packaging box comprising:

a box main body which accommodates a bundle of photosensitive printing plates and which is provided with [the] a supply opening through which the photosensitive printing plates are taken out; and

an opening/closing lid which [can be] is removably attached to said box for opening/closing the supply opening.

9. *(Amended)* A printing plate packaging box comprising:

a box main body which accommodates a bundle of photosensitive printing plates and which is provided with [the] a supply opening through which the photosensitive printing plates are taken out; and

an opening/closing lid which [can be] is swingably attached to said box for opening/closing the supply opening.

10. *(Amended)* A printing plate packaging box comprising:

a box main body which accommodates a bundle of photosensitive printing plates and which is provided with [the] a supply opening through which the photosensitive printing plates are taken out; and

an opening/closing lid which [can be] is slidably attached to said box for opening/closing the supply opening.

New Claims 27-29 are added.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

The Abstract is changed as follows:

A photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus for supplying a photosensitive printing plate to an automatic plate making machine for a photosensitive printing plate [is disclosed. This photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus:] includes a printing plate packaging device which accommodates a bundle of photosensitive printing plates; a printing plate accommodating portion to which the printing plate packaging device is removably attached and which can completely shield light from the exterior; and a taking-out/conveying device which takes out the photosensitive printing plates from an interior of the printing plate packaging device in the light-shielded accom-

modation portion and conveys the photosensitive printing plates to a predetermined position. When the printing plate packaging means has an opening/closing lid, the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus may further include a lid opening/closing device. In this case, the lid opening/closing device operates in an interlocking manner with the taking-out/conveying device[. The opening/closing lid of a take-out port of the printing plate packaging device] and is opened when the taking-out operation by the taking-out/conveying device is started, and is closed when the taking-out operation is completed. [Moreover, a jutting-out portion may be provided in the printing plate packaging device such that the jutting-out portion juts out of the printing plate supplying apparatus when the printing plate packaging device is loaded into the photosensitive printing plate supplying apparatus in the light-shielded state. In this case, the photosensitive printing plate is exposed within the supplying apparatus by pulling the jutting-out portion and then can be taken out.]